

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3, and 9-12 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 4-8 are canceled, without prejudice.

**Response to rejection of claims 1, 3, and 9-12 over Bardman**

In the above-identified Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 9-12 under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over US 6,710,161 (Bardman).

Bardman discloses, "Substrates to which the polymer composition of this invention may be applied include, for example," (col. 15, lines 47-49) and Bardman discloses a list of substrates that includes "woven and nonwoven material such as cloth, wool, synthetic and natural fiber, and textiles" (col. 15, lines 66-67).

The present claims all have the limitation "wherein said aqueous system comprises fabric."

Applicants respectfully maintain that the disclosure of Bardman does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention. Applicants submit that a disclosure that teaches applying an aqueous composition to fabric does not teach or suggest making an aqueous system that comprises fabric. The term "comprises" is a synonym for "contains." The language of claim 1 requires that the aqueous system comprises (i.e., contains) fabric. One example of such an aqueous system is the content of a washing machine during a washing cycle or a rinsing cycle.

In contrast, Bardman discloses applying an aqueous polymer composition to a substrate. An aqueous composition that is "applied to" a substrate does not "contain" that substrate. To illustrate this point, Applicants note that Bardman also discloses applying his aqueous polymer composition to, for example, timber and concrete (col. 15, lines 49-54). Such a disclosure does not teach or suggest making an aqueous polymer composition that contains timber or concrete. Similarly, Bardman's disclosure of applying an aqueous polymer composition to cloth does not constitute a teaching or suggestion that an aqueous composition could contain cloth.

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Amdt. Dated: March 15, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of 01/26/2007

Docket No. A01182

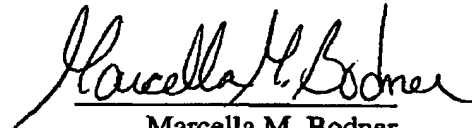
In sum, the present claims require the use of an aqueous system that contains fabric. Applicants maintain that Bardman does not teach or suggest the use of such an aqueous system. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present claims are not obvious over Bardman.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reexamine the claimed subject matter, to withdraw the rejections of the claimed subject matter, and to allow claims 1, 3, and 9-12 at this time. If, however, there remain any open issues which the Examiner believes can be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned agent.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this amendment; however, if any such fees, including petition or extension fees, are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them, as well as to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully Submitted,



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